

15. OCCURRENCE OF RUSSELL'S VIPER [*VIPERA RUSSELLI* (SHAW)] IN KATHIAWAR (SAURASHTRA)

As K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji desires to know (*J.B.N.H.S.* Vol. 48, p. 595) of an authentic record of Russell's Viper in Kathiawar I may inform him that it occurs in the Sorath Region of Kathiawar.

I first came across a single individual some ten years ago in a valley of the Datar range of hills. It was disturbed at a sun bath and disappeared into the thickets.

In my college museum there are 3 specimens of this viper all collected in the college compound. Two of these are preserved in spirit while the third is a skin cured by myself and mounted on khaddar cloth. This is 3 ft. 6 ins. in length.

The snake mentioned by Mr. Vasu in Vol. 48, No. 1 page 190 of the *Journal* is too small for a full grown Russell's Viper and may be, as suggested by K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji, probably a Saw-scaled Viper *Echis carinata*.

BAHAUDDIN COLLEGE,

JUNAGADH (SAURASHTRA).

G. A. KAPADIA

1st December, 1949.

16. THE RECORD BLACK EARTH BOA [*ERYX JOHNI* (RUSSELL)]

The following measurements and lepidosis of a female Black Earth Boa (*Eryx johni* Russell) seem worth recording. The snake was acquired in August 1949 from a snake-charmer who said it had been caught off Thana near Bombay.

Total length 4' 2"

Tail 3"

Lepidosis:Costals

- (a) Two head-lengths
behind the head... 62
- (b) Mid-body ... 65
- (c) Two head-lengths
before the vent ... 49

Ventrals ... 213

Caudals ... 34

The specimen weighed $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. on the day it was brought in.

Boulenger and Smith in their Fauna of British India volumes on Snakes both record a specimen measuring 3 ft. 3 ins. Major Wall in his Handlist of Snakes of the Indian Empire, and Prater (Snakes of Bombay Island and Salsette, *J.B.N.H.S.*, Vol. 29, p. 353 and Vol. 30, p. 21 respectively) write of one 3 ft. $7\frac{1}{2}$ ins. long. Ditmars (The Snakes of the World, 1935) states that the Black Earth Boa grows to about a yard in length while Col. Gharpurey (Snakes of India, 1935) mentions its reaching 4 ft.

114, APOLLO STREET,

BOMBAY,

8th December, 1949.

V. K. CHARI

Asst. Curator